18. **Public Works.**—The inadequacy of the allotment for public works which marked the period coeval with the war was remedied in the year 1096, when large supplemental grants were sanctioned with a view to effect substantial progress in the development of communications. The total expenditure under public works in 1096 amounted to Rs. 37·86 lakhs, reaching the pre-war figure of 1090 and showing an increase of 15·6 per cent. over the outlay in the previous year. A good portion of the roads opened by private agencies in Central Travancore has been taken over for departmental maintenance, and public criticism has been invited on the draft rules framed for standardising the future construction of such roads and the assumption of their management by the Government. Government would welcome further criticism of these rules by the members of the Assembly before they are issued in their final shape, and it is hoped that, when the rules are eventually passed, private agencies will so construct these roads as to render it easier for the Government to assume their management. As the supervision and control of Division Maramat works by Peishkars was found to be defective, that duty was entrusted to an Executive Engineer deputed from the regular *cadre* with effect from the beginning of 1097. This measure should result in economy, uniformity and efficiency. Another measure of importance undertaken during the period is the passing of the Public Canals and Public Ferries Regulation, VI of 1096, calculated to improve the administration of public canals and waterways and to secure a more effective control of the vessels plying over them. A set of rules under this Regulation will be soon issued, which will enable the Government to deal more effectively with the administration of waterways which are so conspicuous a feature of this country.

19. **Railways.**—The important subject of the extension of railways has received the attention of the Government. Owing to the delay in the final settlement of the exact nature and extent of the participation of this State in the development of the Cochin Harbour, the consideration of the question of the extension of the railway from Kottarakara or Kundara in the direction of Cochin has had to be necessarily postponed. Arrangements, however, are almost complete for the commencement of a reconnaissance survey for the extension of the present line from Quilon to Trivandrum up to Nagercoil, while the economic survey of the forest wealth of the Neriamangalam Valley, already referred to, has been undertaken with the main object of ascertaining whether a railway from the High Range to the coast along the course of that valley would be a paying concern.

20. **Medical Relief and Public Health.**—The Government Bacteriologist, after undergoing the requisite training in Kasauli and Madras, returned to Trivandrum and commenced work in the laboratory newly fitted up for him. Malaria and anæmia are responsible for undermining the health of a large number of people in this country, and Government have appointed a special officer to conduct investigations into the causation of these diseases and formulate measures calculated to minimise their incidence. This officer has already sent up his report on the causation of malaria by mosquitoes in the town of Trivandrum and will in due course engage himself in the study of elephantiasis and its causative factors. The Lepers Regulation has been amended by Ragulation IV of 1097, and power has been taken in the amending Regulation to compel lepers of all stages to go to Asylums. The C. M. S. Leper Asylum at Alleppey and the L. M. S. Leper Asylum at Neyyur have been awarded grants-in-aid. The Department of Ayurveda has been thoroughly reorganised and the Trivandrum Ayurveda Pathasala has been converted into a college with a correspondingly large staff. The post of Inspector of Vaidyasalas has been created with a view to make the grant-in-aid Vaidyasalas more useful and efficient. The country was throughout the year free from epidemic diseases. A law for the compulsory registration of vital statistics has been passed as Regulation VII of 1096, and when the necessary arrangements have been made to give effect to the provisions of this Regulation, much of the inaccuracy in the registration of births and deaths observable at present may be expected to disappear. Orders have been issued to make arrangements for giving ten Vernacular school teachers a course of training in Hygiene during the next summer vacation. The selected teachers, after training,

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